Di Totomaunice. 11759.

The TRIUMPHS and Hope of Great-Britain and Ireland.

A

## SERMON,

PREACHED IN THE

Parish Church of St. Michael, Dublin;

On Thursday, November the 29th, 1759.

Being the Day of General THANKSGIVING for the Success of his Majesty's Arms, both by Sea and Land; and for Granting us an uncommonly plentiful Harvest.

By WILLIAM HENRY, D. D. Rector of KURNEY. F. R. S.

Majora Canamus.

DUBLIN:

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THE CONTRACT

## PSALM IXV. VER. 5.

Thou hast shewn us wonderful Things in thy Righteousness, O God of our Salvation: Thou that art the Hope of all the Ends of the Earth, and of them that remain in the broad Sea.

Tho' in some Manuscripts it is ascribed to the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel, who might have pointed it out, as a most noble and becoming Song of Praise, to be used by the Israelites, on their wonderful Return from their Captivity in Babylon, and receiving many National Bessings.

Ir begins with this grand Chorus, addressed to the King of Glory, from Hearts exalted with Joy, and dilated with Gratitude.

" THOU, O God, art praised in Sion: And unto "Thee shall the Vow be performed in Ferusalem. " Thou that hearest Prayer: Unto Thee shall

" all Flesh come."

THESE triumphant Praises are offered up to God upon Account of these three great national Benefits, which are especially celebrated in this Pfalm.

"Gop's choofing and receiving us to be His " peculiar People."—Bleffed is the Man whom thou choosest, and receivest unto thee : He shall dwell in thy Courts, and shall be fatisfyed with the Pleasure of thy House, even of thy Holy Temple. - " His " granting us Salvation and Protection from Ene-" mies," and " His pouring out plenteously His " Blefling on the Fruits of our Earth."

EACH of these we have Reason at all Times to acknowledge with thankful Hearts, and are most solemnly called upon, by our most Religious and Gracious King, to celebrate on this joyful Day.

WE have often affembled, by public Authority, to lament our Sins, (the true Cause of all public and private Calamities) to deprecate the Divine Wrath, and to implore God's Pardon, and Protection.

BLESSED be God most High! Our Prayers are heard. We have fown in Tears, now reap in Joy. Our present Employment is to pour out our Thankfulness from Hearts overflowing with Gratitude, titude, for the great Goodness and Mercy which our God hath shed abundantly upon these Nations.

No Passage in Scripture can be more adapted to express the Grounds of our present Occasion of Thanksgiving; or to direct us to the proper Use to be made thereof, than the Words of my Text.

THE Grounds of our Thanksgiving are plainly denoted in these Words.

- "Thou bast shewn us marvellous Things, in thy "Righteousness, O God of our Salvation!"—In which Words we have these three Particulars most applicable to our present Occasion.
- Ift. THAT God has been the God of our Salva-
- 2dly. THAT, in Consequence of this Relation, he hath shewn us wonderful Things.
- zly. That He hath done these Things in Righteous ness; in Support of a righteous Cause, and righteous Measures.

THE due Consideration of these Particulars will naturally lead us, to serve God truly: And to place our *Hope* and Trust in Him, whose Providence ruleth over all the *Ends of the Earth*, and the broad Sea.

of our Salvation.

As God is a Being of infinite Goodness, and the great Ends both of Creation and Providence are to display his Goodness, and make it manifest to all intelligent Creatures, this Perfection is above all others celebrated in the Sacred Writings; particularly that Exertion of his Goodness which is displayed in faving and delivering. God himself glories in the Character of a Saviour. He faith by his Prophet Isaiah, "I am the Lord, beside me there is no Saviour." xliii. 11. He is mighty to fave. In a more especial Manner He is the Saviour of his People; infomuch, that by Way of Eminence He, in manifold Passages, stiles himself their Salvation. He is our Salvation, by faving us from our Sins, and our spiritual Enemies; and by granting to us the joyful Tidings of everlasting Salvation and Happiness in Heaven.

But, what is more particularly pointed out to us here, is his vouchsafing us his Protection, and Deliverance from temporal Enemies.

Were we to recount the extraordinary Protection which God has vouchfafed to his People in these happy British Islands, and the surprising Deliverances He has wrought for us in the most critical Dangers; we should find them as many, and remarkable as those He afforded his antient People of Israel, to whom He, in a peculiar Manner, was the Rock of Salvation.

THE Lord bath made known his Salvation, and all the Ends of the Earth have feen the Salvation of our God.

How often have the Enemies of our Religion, and happy Constitution come in like a Flood? But the Spirit of the Lord bath always lifted up a Standard against them. He hath often made the Winds, and the Seas, and the Stars in their Courses sight for us. So that we (like Israel at the Red Sea in the last Distress) have had little else to do, than to stand still, and see the Salvation of our God. Such Interpositions of Providence may convince us, our Friends, and Enemies, "That our Glorius, our Constitution in Church and State, is as much the peculiar Charge of Heaven, as Noah's Ark was amidst that Deluge which swallowed up the Rest of the World."

To dwell on these Things, on our blessed REFOR-MATION from Popery, or the happy RESTORATI-ON of our Constitution, on the glorious REVOLUTI-ON, and the most seasonable Accession of the illustrious House of Hanover to the Throne, might afford a pleasing Meditation to a religious Observer of Providence.

But our Attention is this Day called off to fresh Instances. We are now to sing a New Song to the Lord, for He bath done marvellous Things: His Right Hand and his holy Arm hath gotten him the Victory.—This leads me to the second Point.

"THE wonderful Things that God hath now hewn us; in Consequence of the Relation we

" bear to him as our Salvation."

THE wonderful Things which the God of our Salvation hath shewn for us, in the Course of this last Year, are most clearly, and from the best Authority, recognized in the devout and spirited Address of the Commons of Great-Britain, to his sacred Majesty, upon this Occasion, in these excellent Words.

"With the deepest Reverence, and most de"vout Gratitude to divine Providence, we ac"knowledge that manifold Blessing and Protecti"on which God hath vouchsafed to bestow on
"your Majesty's Counsels and Arms; and offer
"up our most ardent Vows and Prayers for its
"Continuance.

"We will not attempt to enumerate all the Ad"vantages and Glories derived to these Kingdoms, from the various Successes which have
been extended into every Quarter of the World.

But we beg Leave to assure your Majesty, that
our Hearts are filled with the most grateful and
lively Sense of the happy Consequences—particularly;

"The taking of the Island of Goree, and the Extension of our Commerce on the Coast of "Africa; the Defeat of the French Fleet in the East-Indies, and the Repulse of their Land Forces before Madrass, whereby the dangerous Designs of our Enemies there have miscarry'd, and Protection hath been given to our Trade and Settlements in those Countries.—The valuable Conquests of Guadaloupe and Mary-Gal-" lante

lante in the West-Indies .- The Reduction of so " many Forts and Places in North America, com-" pleated and crowned by that glorious and deci-" five Victory over the French Army in CANA-" DA, and the Surrender of their capital City of " Quebec, effected with so much Honour to the " Courage and Conduct of your Majesty's Officers " by Sea and Land, and with so much Lustre to your " intrepid Forces. The important Success of your " Fleet in pursuing, taking and destroying a con-" fiderable Part of the French Squadron off Cape " Lagos; and the blocking up, for fo many " Months, the Rest of the Navy of France, in " their own Ports, which hath greatly augmented " the Distress of our Enemies, whilst it has pro-" tected and fecured our Commerce and Navi-" gation."

"Nor can we ever forget that critical, fignal, and memorable Defeat of the French Army near Minden, so justly the Subject of lasting Admiration and Thankfulness, if we consider the superior Numbers of the Enemy, the great and able Conduct of his Serene Highness Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, or the unconquerable Valour of your Majesty's Troops.

"WE View, with the highest Admiration, the Magnanimity and unexampled Efforts of that great Prince, your Majesty's Ally, the King of Prussia, whose consummate Genius, unwearied Activity, and unshaken Constancy of Mind, seconded by the Bravery of his Troops, have been able, in every Situation, to supply Resources sufficient to resist the united Forces of so many and such formidable Powers."

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THESE, These, O ye Sons of Liberty and Happiness, are some of the amazing Things which God hath wrought for us, for which our Hearts exult with Joy, whilst we prostrate our Souls with the deepest Humility and Gratitude, before the God of our Salvation.

Not unto us, not unto us, but unto God be the Praise! it is the Lord's Doing, and wonderful in our Eyes.—Who that reflects on the gloomy Prospects we had before us Two Years ago, could have hoped for such rapid and amazing Successes? many of them so unexpected, that when we awaken to reflect on them, we are like Men that dreamed.—We humbled our Souls before the Lord in our Distress. He hath quickly heard our Cry, and raised us, from Scorn and Contempt, to Glory, and Honour, and Triumph. He hath been our Hope and Support in all the Ends of the Earth, in Europe, Asia, Africa and America: And the Guide and Protector of our Fleets thro' all Parts of the broad Sea.

THE divine Protection is not more visible in all our unparalleled Successes, than in the Preservation from Shipwrecks, and Dangers, of our vast Fleets spread over all Parts of the Ocean, from the East to the West Indies, and the Coasts of Europe, even while many of them lay, for several Months, exposed in the most dangerous Stations. It is He surely whom the Winds and Seas obey, that hath conducted the Helm.

Nor, (while we triumph in these awful Acts of God's Favour) are we to forget "those gentler Showers of Peace and Plenty at Home, which He pours out so abundantly upon us."

We cannot but remember how very lately devouring Famine spread over the Land. The Cries of Distress rended our Ears from every Corner: Sickness and Death, with ghastly Looks stalked around!—Hungry and thirsty, our Souls fainted in us. Then we cried unto the Lord in our Trouble: And He delivered us out of our Distresses. He sent us two most plenteous Harvests: He crowned this Year with his Goodness: He has blest the Increase of our Earth; his Paths have dropped Fatness. "O that Men would praise the Lord for his Goodness! and for his wonderful Works to the Children of Men!"

It may greatly heighten our Thankfulness, when we consider the Third Particular pointed out in the Text; "That God hath shewn these wonderful Things to us in Righteousness." In Defence of a just Cause, and righteous Measures.

FAR be the Arrogance, the wicked Thought from us to assume any Merit to ourselves, with respect to God!

Verily, O Lord we are lefs than the least of all the Mercies and Deliverances thou hast shewn to thy Servants.—Yet with Regard to our Enemies, who, unprovoked, laid Schemes, and took large Strides to our Ruin, the War into which we were forced to engage is most just on our Parts.

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No fooner had we, in consequence of the last Peace with France, honeftly reftored the important Fortress of Cape-Breton, the Key of all the French Settlements in North America; but that perfidious Court laid their deep Schemes, and very nearly effected them, to invade our American Colonies on all Sides, from their Back Settlements, and to break in upon, and cut them off from one another: And thus to rob Great-Britain of its Empire in America; to destroy that most valuable Commerce; and confequently our Maritime Power. The better to accomplish these Ends, they spirited up, and themselves led the Way to, the favage Indians, to fall suddenly on our too secure and innocent Planters; and to burn, murder, fealp, and destroy many Hundred Families, while bonest Britain, securely relying on the solemn Faith of Treaties, fo far from suspecting, could scarce believe fuch perfidious and inhuman Attempts.-When these Things became notorious and flagrant, what was to be done?—Were we tamely to lie still, and see the Throats of our Protestant Brethren and Fellow-Subjects cut?-Were we not to regard Danger, until it overwhelmed ourfelves?

IF, like Sampson, we had let our Strength depart from us, it would be too late to call to us, "Thy Enemies are upon thee." The perfidious French Court, like the Philistines, would have treated Britain as those treated Sampson. They would have bound us Hand and Foot, blind-folded us for ever, carried us in Triumph to the idolatrous Temple of their Dagon, and there made us their Sport and Derision.

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But Thanks to God, the Defender of our righteous Cause! Great-Britain opened its Eyes in Time; preserved its Strength; pulled down Dagon's Temple over their Head; and overwhelmed them.

THE Means and Measures by which under God these great Acts have been attained, are righteous, such as are worthy of so just a Cause.

Low Cunning, Perfidiousness and Cruelty, are the Characteristics of Cowards and Slaves, Cruelty especially is the surest Mark of Despair.

But the Spirit that animates the British Measures and Armies, is superior to such base Subtersuges; it delights in Candour, Truth, Honesty, manly Courage and Humanity. Britons fight only to defend and preserve; conquer their Enemies to render them more happy. Their Successes are worthy of Men, render them good Angels even to their Adversaries; and therefore are acceptable to God.

Upon this Principle, in our fincere Love to Mankind, and Humanity towards our Enemies, I cannot forbear congratulating, even, the French Nation, on the Successes of the British Arms: As those of them, who shall become Subjects of Great-Britain, will be advanced from Servitude to Freedom: And as that Nation in general have now the fairest Opportunity afforded to them of re-asserting their antient Liberties, which have been cruelly ravished from them during the Reigns

of the Three last Lewis's; and have at the same Time exhibited to them a most striking Example of the great Things that may be done, by Measures directed only by Virtue, and by Men animated by Liberty, the true and lasting Source of national Glory.

Ar the same Time, that these perfidious Machinations were carrying on against us; the French Court, lest we should have any Ally, entered into a most base and wicked Conspiracy with the ungrateful House of Austria, the Apostate King of Poland, the Swede, degenerate from their antient Virtue, and the Empress of Muscovy, to destroy our only Ally the King of Prussia, to divide among them his Dominions; and at the same Time, to "lay waste and make a Desart of our gracious King's Hanoverian Dominions," in Revenge for his animated Zeal for the Sasety and Honour of Great-Britain.

Thus all these formidable Powers, (like Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Gog and Magog of old) took crafty Counsel together, saying, "come let us cut them off from being a Nation, that their Name be had no more in Remembrance:" and in Consequence of these Counsels, covered Germany with immense Armies, spreading Horror and Ruin around.

All Nations compossed this Prince about to destroy bim: But the righteous Lord was his Support, who gave him unparalleled Wisdom, Magnanimity and Spirit. In the Name of the Lord be has destroyed them. He has made their Nobles like Oreb and Zeeb.

Zeeb, and their Princes fall like Zeba and Zalmunna. He, trusting in the Divine Protection, has often beat these innumerable Enemies small as the Dust, and made their vast Armies become as Dung to fatten the Earth.

Thus the Lord hath, in the Course of his Providence, magnified his Justice as well as his Mercy, and manifested to all the World, "that "there is a Righteous God, who dwelleth in "Heaven, and Ruleth over all the Kingdoms of Men."

As God hath thus magnified both his Goodness and Righteousness, in the wonderful Things He hath done for us.—It is your Business, O you who are so highly favoured, to hear the Voice of your Benefactor and Deliverer's gracious Providence: And to fulfil the grand Design thereof.

ONE principal End is pointed out in the Words of my Text.— "That ever hereafter, God may be our Hope in all the Ends of the Earth; and where-ever our Commerce or Fleets shall sail thro' the wide Sea."

WHEN the Holy Prophet, in the lxxviii. Psalm, recognizes the marvellous Works of God towards his People, He tells them that the Design thereof is, "I hat they might set their Hope in God, and "not forget the Works of God, but keep his Com-" mandments."

WHEN God shews himself gracious to his People, He gives liberally: His Blessings flow amain.
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His Delight is in those who gratefully acknowledge them, and put their Trust in his Mercy.

LET us therefore, O Beloved of the Lord, ever hereafter make our God our Strength and our Salvation, and, on every Emergency, place our whole Trust in his Protection and Favour.

Do the Nations rage against us? They only imagine a vain Thing. He that sits in Heaven laugheth them to Scorn. The Lord shall have them in Derision.

Do our French Enemies, driven to Despair, gnash at us with their Teeth; and madly threaten to invade these happy Islands?

Know, that true Religion and Liberty are our Glory: And around our Glory, God hath made a Defence.

Do Earthquakes rend the Earth, terrify and confound neighbouring Kingdoms?

God is our Refuge and Strength. We will not fear, tho' the Earth be removed, and tho' Mountains be carried into the Midst of the Sea.

Do mighty Tempests rage? Do they sweep over the vast Ocean, toss up its foaming Billows, and make them gape wide, to swallow up our gallant Fleets, or the Merchants Hopes? Let us not fear. God rides on the Wings of the Wind: He directs the Tempest, and allays the Storm.

ARE our Fleets engaged in Battle? Do the Burst and Roar of Cannon rend Heaven and Earth and Sea? Let us not be amazed or tremble: But stand firm to our Tackle, and our Anchor of Hope.

HE who preserved his three Servants in the Midst of the Fire, who directs the right aiming Thunderbolt, can be a Pillar of Cloud to defend us, and a Pillar of Fire, to shoot out his Vengeance against our Adversaries\*.

Do we see the Nations around, in their Turns sinking under Tyrants? While God is our Protector, we shall ever flourish Great and Free, at once the Joy and Envy of the whole Earth.

Thus happy is the Nation who hath the God of Hosts for its Defence. Blessed are the People whose God is the Lord.

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\* The fure Foundation we have for such Trust in our God hath been confirmed farther, and manifested to all the World, by the glorious Victory obtained off Belle-Isle, November 20th, by the British Fleet under Sir Edward Hawke, over the grand Fleet of France, commanded by Monsieur Consians. We of Ireland have most particular Reasons to adore the Divine Providence manifested for our Protection, in this signal and critical Victory; as it is now well known, that the Destination of this Great French Fleet, and their 18000 Land Forces, was to invade and destroy us, in our too great Security, and testify it to all the World; by hallowing his Sabbaths, promoting true Religion, and walking before him in Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of our Lives, as now we can do it without Fear.

It is our Duty and Wisdom to offer up incessantly our most fervent Supplications and Prayers for the Continuance of such distinguishing Favour; and in order to have this our Confidence in God's Protection well grounded, it is necessary for us to comply with the Terms upon which alone we can claim any Title to God's Favour, that is to observe bis Statutes, and keep bis Laws. Psalm cv. 45.

Is it is possible for any Thing to add Weight to that Divine Authority which enacted these Laws: The Benefits we have received must mightily inhance the Obligation. Our Hearts should now be enlarged with all the Sensations of Gratitude, Reverence, and true Filial Affection and Obedience. How can we ever sufficiently honour our Heavenly Father 1

As we have no Reason to expect miraculous Interpositions, and God worketh for us by natural Causes; there are certain focial Duties required of us; in the due Performance of which, we cooperate with the Divine Providence for our Defence and Protection; and in so doing we may depend on his Blessing.

THE first in this Class, is "all due Respect, "Loyalty, and most dutiful Affection to our dear and most gracious KING," who hath so many Years ruled us (and O Heaven hear our Prayer, that he may yet long rule us!) in Justice and Mercy,

Mercy, Truth and Honour. Under his auspicious Reign we have enjoyed every Blessing that Mortals can desire.

THE Beams of Majesty, during his whole Reign, have darted forth the most benign Insluence. And as his just Reward from Heaven, how bright and glorious doth his Evening Sunshine forth?

THERE is not a Cloud in the British Hemisphere, and blessed be God, that, from the sincere Piety, and many Virtues conspicuous in the HEIR of his Crown, we have a no less pleasing Prospect; even after the most Worthy of all the Kings of the Earth shall ascend from a Temporal to an Eternal Throne!

ANOTHER focial Duty most necessary at this Time is "ftrict Unity among all his Majesty's Subjects."

BLESSED be God who hath happily diffused this Spirit of Unity among us! All Ranks, Orders, different Professions, and Religions now meet in this Centre. Roman Catholicks as well as Protestants are animated by it. May we ever preserve this Unity of Spirit, which is our Strength. These Cords of Man, these Bands of Love, connecting us together, will make us invincible. "The salumary Effects of this Harmony are most conspicutions, and the pleasing Experience we have, must be the most powerful Motive to enforce the "Continuance of these good Dispositions; so essential to the Exertion of our utmost Strength, as well as to the Tranquillity, good Order, and "Happiness of our Country."

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THE Last social Duty I shall now mention, is "Magnanimity and Courage in the Defence of our "Country." This formerly was, and blessed be God, is again become the Characteristic of Free Born Britons and Irish Men, as has appeared during the whole Course of this last most memorable Campaign.

"IT must fill our Hearts with the highest Degree of Exultation, when we restect on the Distinguished and unbroken Valour of his Majesty's
Troops; owned and applauded even by those
whom they overcame. The Glory they gained
is not meerly their own; but, in a national
View, is one of the most important Circumflances of our Success, as it must be a striking
Admonition to our Enemies, with whom they
have to contend."

WHEN we hear this from the highest Authority, from a King who hath always been an heroic Example of Courage, and military Glory, let Glory and the Love of our Country inspire our Souls!

A BRAVE Man in such a Cause has nothing to fear, and every Thing to hope. His Magnanimity and Courage generally carries him on to an assured Victory.

AND if he should fall in the glorious Cause, as the great General WOLFE did; his Name is had in everlasting Remembrance: Kingdoms celebrate his Fame; and his Soul, having shaked off these Raggs of Mortality, darts forward to the Regions of Life, there to mingle with Angels, and the Spirits of the

the Just; and to receive that Crown of Glory which the Captain General of our Salvation hath promised to that Soldier who is faithful unto Death.

As we are called upon this Day to return Thanks to God for the plenteous Harvest wherewith he hath blessed us: There is one Point of Gratitude naturally arising hence, which I shall just mention to you. "To make a proper Use of the Fruits of the Earth." We cannot suppose that God gave us this Plenty to make Provision for our sinful Lusts; that we should squander away his Gifts in Riot and Intemperance: But rather that our Hearts should be innocently refreshed with Food and Gladness; and that, out of our Abundance, we should provide for our Brethren who want, as God hath liberally provided for us.

Above all Things we should abhor the black Ingratitude of converting these wholesom Fruits of the Earth into Poison; by distilling from them and swallowing down, a fiery Spirit, destructive to the Souls and Bodies of Men, and subversive of Industry, and the Peace and Order of civil Society.

Hearts at once with the deepest Humility, and most exalted Gratitude; when we reslect on our own happy Situation, in the Midst of War; and compare it with the Sufferings and Distresses of our reformed Brethren in Germany: Our Tranquillity with their Confusions: Our Plenty and Abundance with their Hunger and Want: Our quiet Habitation, with the continual Ravages of their Cities, Towns and Countries: And when we add to this,

that most of their Distresses, especially those grievous Sufferings of our Hanoverian Brethren, have been occasioned by their Attachment to us. What Miseries have they not suffered? While we, under the Wings of the same gracious Sovereign, and the wise and mild Administration of his most noble REPRESENTATIVE, (distinguished for his Love of Liberty, and wholesome Laws, obtained by him, to promote our National Prosperity) enjoy, undisturbed, all the Happiness which the happiest Constitution can afford.

What are we, O Lord, that thou shouldst thus visit us with thy distinguishing Favour. Are we in Piety and Virtue, better than they? I fear not. What we want in Merit, let us endeavour to make up by the Depth of our Humility, and Sincerity of our Thankfulness. And by the most tender Sympathy, and fervent Supplications, that our God may speedily shew the like Favour unto them.

Now of the Things we have spoken, this is the Sum.

God hath shewed himself to be the God of our Salvation.

HE hath shewn marvellous Things to us, Things terrible to our Enemies.

HE hath done this in Defence of our righteous Cause.

HE hath Bleffed us with domestic Peace and Plenty.

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LET us learn from hence to place our Hope continually in our God; and to walk worthy of the diftinguished Favours he hath now conferred upon us.

So shall God continue to bless us; and be our God to all Generations. Amen. Amen.

THE END.

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